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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/24/07

SPONSOR Martinez LAST UPDATED 3/2/07 HB 1186/aHHGAC

SHORT TITLE Surgery Types Considered As Optometry SB _____

ANALYST C. Sanchez

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08	FY09		
NFI	Minimal	Minimal	Recurring	Optometry Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

Relates to, SB 367

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Recurring	Optometry Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Amendment

The House Health and Government Affairs amendment clarifies the original bill by stating that optometry does not include the use of surgery or injections in the treatment of eye disease

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 1186 amends Section 61-2-2, NMSA 1978, of the Optometry Act, to increase the scope of practice to include in-office minor surgical procedures.

The proposed changes will include treatment of the human eye with the following procedures:

- Non-laser removal, destruction or drainage of superficial eyelid lesions and conjunctival cysts.
- Removal of non-perforating foreign bodies from the cornea, conjunctiva and eyelid
- Non-laser corneal debridement
- culture, scrape or anterior puncture, not including removal of pterygium, corneal biopsy or removal of corneal neoplasias
- removal of eyelashes; and
- probing, dilation, irrigation or closure of the tear drainage structures of the eyelid;

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Optometry Board may need to increase the operational budget, and therefore increase licensing fees, in order to provide the oversight required under the increased scope of practice.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Education of the general public and patients that procedures performed under an expanded scope of license may not be reimbursable by third party payers including Medicare because New Mexico makes this change.

RELATIONSHIP

SB367 Committee Substitute – Optometry Exclusions & Certifications – Michael S. Sanchez

TECHNICAL ISSUES

New Mexico Optometrist are not required in the legislation to demonstrate educational or technical competence to perform surgical procedures. There is no requirement for additional education or training for this expanded scope of practice.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status Quo

CS/mt